

## 5,000 ACRE CAREY SELECTION

### CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN STATE LAND BOARD AND HARNEY VALLEY IMPROVEMENT CO.

Letters Show Dissatisfaction upon the Part of Both Parties to Contract With Inclination for all Concerned to Quit—Other Letters of Later Date will Appear in These Columns Next Week.

The following letters written by the State Land Board and the Harney Valley Improvement Company were mailed to The Times-Herald by Wm. Hanley. They are of interest to the people of this section and show the position of both parties to the contract to a certain extent. However, two other letters, each from these gentlemen and dated, on the same subject were more light upon it. These will be published next issue.

Salem, April 9, 1906.  
C. E. S. Wood,  
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:—Yours of March 27, addressed to the Governor and the State Land Board enclosing a clipping from the Burns newspaper, in relation to the application of the Harney Valley Improvement Company for the reclamation of 24,577 acres of land in Harney county under the Carey Act, at the same time had the attention of the Board and I am directed to advise you that the contract for this segregation between the Harney Valley Improvement Company and the Hon. Secretary of the Interior was signed by the Board and forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior on March 10, 1905, since which date no further has been heard from the Board.

I am also directed to advise you that the Board have, during the few months, been having considerable experience with the State Land Board and the Carey Act and contracts entered into under it. A number of questions have arisen which the contracting companies and the Board do not agree upon. It is more than likely that in some case it will have to be decided in the courts.

The main difference between the companies and the Board is that the companies claim that they have delivered on the land all the water they can get from the source shown to be available by map and plans submitted. The segregation was made, it is much or little, they complied with their part of the contract and the State officers made the certificates required by the Secretary of the Interior and obtain patent. The companies, however, have taken the position that if the quantity of water shown is insufficient to reclaim the land, so that it will raise ordinary agricultural crops, the reclamation is not complete as contemplated by the laws of Congress and the laws of the State.

The absence of any actual evidence in the locality of these segments as to the quantity of water necessary to reclaim the lands, the Board have been guided by the statement furnished by the State Engineer, who is a very capable officer and who in arriving at his conclusion has taken the minimum as near as possible required similar in quality and similar conditions.

In its late experiences the State is not so favorably impressed with the benefits to be derived from the Carey Grant, particularly under the State law and contracts, and do not intend to enter into any contracts under the present conditions materially changing and as at present advised, the Board are of the opinion that it is more detrimental to the State and the people's interests to enter into further contracts like those that it would be to refuse to do anything, as in the case of one company they have at the knowledge or consent of the Board, sold most of the land under the Carey Act, and the part of which they will probably be able to give title on at the time being insufficient upon which the required water can be made.

These settlers who have settled on the land in good faith and have paid for the same, are asking and urging the State to require the Company to furnish them by requiring said company to furnish an ample supply of water, when necessary, for

ing, the soil will become so changed and there will be such deep deposits of moisture, that everything capable of sending out deep roots will flourish, such as the small fruits and fruit trees. But that is all as yet problematical. The Harney Valley Improvement Company has never pretended that it will reclaim to a certain lands to any further extent than to produce a hay crop and cereals. In point of time, it does not expect to have a prior water right to any water supply sufficient for these purposes beyond the end of June. I will not be certain on this point, but that is my personal recollection. If it fails to produce these crops, if it fails—no matter what the reason—to change the desert land into crop-bearing land, then it has failed of any right to its reward. This I believe to be the law; certainly if not, it ought to be.

Whether or not the Harney Valley Improvement Company can make good its title to water, is a question for it to contest in the courts, and to be decided by the courts, not by the Secretary of the Interior. The Harney Valley Improvement Company expects to have to fight the Pacific Live Stock Company on the question of water rights, and if it is beaten, it may have to lose its entire contract, but this very delay is simply strengthening the hands of the Pacific Live Stock Company and is weakening the appropriations of water rights by the Harney Valley Improvement Company.

It is for the board to inform itself whether or not there is any possibility of the Harney Valley Improvement Co. having available water and being able to carry out its contract, so far as the physical existence of the water is concerned. We have expended money in determining this fact for ourselves and are satisfied.

The state sent its engineer and determined the fact for itself and was satisfied. A contract has been entered into by the State which seems hung up in Washington without any action whatever. We do not care so much what the action is, as that it be taken promptly, and we be permitted to go on with our contract and perfect our water rights and reclaim these lands if we can do so, or that we be turned free to do something else with our money.

The Harney Valley Improvement Company is certainly entitled to have its contract approved or rejected; that is the real point. Yours very truly,  
C. E. S. Wood.

#### HARNEY LOCALS.

(Intended for last issue.)  
Mary Osborn Douthett presented the affirmative side of the Equal Suffrage question at a meeting at the church last Tuesday night and her arguments were clearly presented and earnestly illustrated. At the close of her address a collection was taken for the benefit of the Equal Suffrage cause. Following this came the organization of a Campaign Committee officiated by the following ladies, Mrs. May Crawford, chairman; Mrs. Eva Crawford, secretary. The committee is to meet weekly to discuss the question of the right of Franchise for women. The first meeting will be Saturday night.

There was pretty severely freezing weather Monday and Tuesday nights and many fear the fruit is injured as apples were in bloom.

James Blanton from Ontario was here Tuesday night with a couple of fine horses and went over to Burns.

Geo. Winborg and Rev. H. E. Carter made a flying trip to Burns on business Wednesday morning.

Jasper Davis president of The Harney Board of Trade went over to Burns Wednesday afternoon to take the stage for Baker City to attend the meeting of the Oregon Development League at Portland on May 22.

Cortez Elliot and family are visiting relatives here this week.

A. J. Cummins arrived from the railroad on Friday with a load of freight for Seth Bower & Co.

Mr. Boyer, father of Mrs. J. W. Shown and Miss Emma Boyer, arrived from Washington Friday on the stage from Ontario.

Messrs. Robert Irving, A. K. Richardson and Hattie Hastie went over to Burns Wednesday afternoon to attend the meeting of Rebekah Degree Lodge No. 43 I. O. O. F.

#### A JOINT STOCK ASSOCIATION

##### LAKE COUNTY STOCKMEN TAKE THE INITIATIVE.

Have Stolen our "Thunder" and Organized For Mutual Protection—Let Harney Fall in With Her Neighbor.

The leading citizens of Crook, Harney and Lake County, in Oregon and Modoc county in California, have organized a Live Stock Protective Association, with headquarters at Lakeview, for the purpose of preventing the killing of cattle and the stealing of horses, cattle and mules.

It has been ascertained that there is a well organized band of horse and cattle thieves operating in Lake, Crook and Harney county, in Oregon, and Modoc county, in California, who have been stealing stock in wholesale numbers during the last year. It is known that these thieves have parties stationed in California and Nevada to receive and dispose of the stock stolen from the Oregon ranges.

So incensed are the stock owners of these counties that every one is willing to not only become a member of the Live Stock Protective Association, but have indicated their willingness to do everything possible to enforce the law against these robbers.

It is to be hoped that in the interest of not only the livestock industry that this gang of lawbreakers be put out of business, but for the sake of law and order and civic righteousness every one of those engaged in this nefarious business should be landed in the penitentiary.—Lakeview Examiner.

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#### A WONDERFUL INVENTION.

It is interesting to note that fortunes are frequently made by the invention of articles of minor importance. Many of the more popular devices are those designed to benefit people and meet popular conditions, and one of the most interesting of these that has ever been invented is the Dr. White Electric Comb, patented Jan. 1, '99. These wonderful combs positively cure dandruff, hair falling out, sick and nervous headaches, and when used with Dr. White's Electric Hair Brush are positively guaranteed to make straight hair curly in 25 days time. Thousands of these electric combs have been sold in the various cities of the Union, and the demand is constantly increasing. Our agents are rapidly becoming rich selling these combs. They positively sell on sight. Send for sample. Men's size 35c, ladies' 50c — (half price while we are introducing them.) The Dr. White The Dr. White Electric Comb Co., Decatur, Ill.

#### A Mountain of Gold

could not bring as much happiness to Mrs. Lucia Wilke, of Caroline, Wis., as did one 25c box of Bucklen's Arnica Salve, when it completely cured a running sore on her leg, which had tortured her 23 long years. Greatest antiseptic healer of Piles, Wounds, and Sores. 25c at the City Drug Store.

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